GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1493
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD FOR WORK SCHEME
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has fixed a deadline for the 13 defiant State Governments to implement food for work programme and provide food for the starving people as reported in the `Times of India` dated September 18, 2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the States in the light of the directive of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and progress made under the scheme so far?

Answer

MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Food for Work Programme was started in January 2001 to make available foodgrains as part of wages to 8 identified drought affected States namely Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra & Orissa. The foodgrains have been lifted by all the States except Uttaranchal. Subsequently, on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers, the Food for Work Programme has been extended to cover other calamities like flood, earthquake etc. Accordingly, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala have been added to the list of affected States. The total quantity of foodgrains allocated to the 11 States which have benefited from this programme is 28.63 lakh tonnes. Out of this, 22.45 lakh tonnes has been lifted from the Food Corporation of India godowns for distribution among the rural poor as part of wages. The percentage of the foodgrains lifted is 78.44 and the percentage of foodgrain distribution is 60.28.

In addition, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has also been launched w.e.f 25.9.2001. Under this Scheme, 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains valued at Rs. 5000 crores (at economic cost) will be provided every year free of cost to the State Governments and UT Administrations.